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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

WOO, ISAAC M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 02/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/778,299

Applicant(s)

LEARMONTH, GARREY

Examiner

Isaac M Woo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hagmann et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,338,055, hereinafter, "Hagmann") in view of Anwar (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,577).

With respect to claims 1, 11, 16 and 18, Hagmann disclose that the method, and computer system, for transaction processing of a search transaction, see (col. 3, lines 8-21, col. 1, lines 25-67 to col. 2, lines 1-43),

a) receiving a plurality of search queries from users (col. 5, lines 51-67 to col. 6, lines 1-11, col. 10, lines 8-36, col. 10, lines 52-61), each of the plurality of search queries including search criteria (col. 1, lines 38-49, col. 12, lines 4-11, FIG. 3);

b) normalizing the search criteria so as to obtain normalized search criteria, see (col. 1, lines 38-49, col. 12, lines 4-11, col. 6, lines 66-67 to col. 7, lines 1-11, FIG. 3, col. 11, lines 9-67 to col. 12, lines 1-67 to col. 13, lines 1-67 to col. 14, lines 1-18) ; and

c) transmitting the normalized search criteria to a search engine, see (FIG. 1, FIG. 2, col. 10, lines 62-67 to col. 11, lines 1-49, col. 5, lines 52-67 to col. 6, lines 1-65). Hagmann does not disclose that search querying including a user address. However, Anwar discloses that search querying including a user address, see (col. 11, lines 61-67 to col. 12, lines 1-6). Therefore, based on Hagmann in view of Anwar, it would have been obvious a person having ordinary skill in the art the time invention was made to combine the search querying including a user address with the system of Hagmann to identify user's address to make user query. In network environment, each user or computer has address which is form of an unsigned integer used to select one fundamental element of storage, usually known as a word from a computer's main memory or other storage device. The address is used to identify user's email (e-mail address) address or user's machine address (IP, Internet Protocol, address) or combination of two in network communication. Thus, in order to identify user, user address is used to communicate in network environment and Internet.

With respect to claims 2, 12 and 19 Hagmann discloses the e) generating a response to each of search queries from users, each response including search results corresponding to the search criteria submitted by that particular user, see (FIG. 2, col. 7, lines 11-67 to col. 8, lines 1-6 7to col. 9, lines 1-56); and

f) transmitting the responses to each of the users, see (col. 1, lines 38-65, col. 4, lines 49-55, col. 5, lines 39-65).

With respect to claims 3 and 13, Hagmann dose not explicitly disclose the transmitting the user addresses to the search engine. However, Anwar discloses transmitting the user addresses to the search engine, see (col. 11, lines 61-67 to col. 12, lines 1-6). Therefore, based on Hagmann in view of Anwar, it would have been obvious a person having ordinary skill in the art the time invention was made to combine the transmitting the user addresses to the search engine with the system of Hagmann to identify user's address to make user query. The address is used to identify user's email (e-mail address) address or user's machine address (IP, Internet Protocol, address) or combination of two in network communication. Thus, in order to identify user, user address is used to communicate in network environment and Internet.

Claims 4, 14 and 17 are rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons set forth above in claims 1-3.

With respect to claims 5, 15 and 20, Hagmann discloses that b1) comparing the search criteria from each of the queries, see (FIG. 2, FIG. 3, FIG. 4, col. 7, lines 1-67 to col. 8, lines 1-67 to col. 9, lines 1-67 to col. 10, line s1-67 to col. 11, lines 1-67 to col. 12, lines 1-63);

b2) determining commonalities between the search criteria; and

b3) generating normalized search criteria (optimizing), the normalized search criteria consolidated based on the commonalities determined in step b2) so as to eliminate redundant search criteria, see (FIG. 2, FIG. 3, FIG. 4, col. 7, lines 1-67 to col.

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8, lines 1-67 to col. 9, lines 1-67 to col. 10, lines 1-67 to col. 11, lines 1-67 to col. 12, lines 1-63);

With respect to claims 6, 10 and 21, Hagmann discloses that search engine is a software program operable on a first computing device, the steps a)-c) performed by a second computing device that is coupled to the first computing device, see (FIG.2, FIG. 3, FIG. 4, col. 7, lines 1-67 to col. 8, lines 1-67 to col. 9, lines 1-67 to col. 10, lines 1-67 to col. 11, lines 1-67 to col. 12, lines 1-63).

With respect to claims 7-9, Hagmann discloses that the first computing device is coupled to the second computing device, see (FIG. 2, col. 5, lines 2-67 to col. 6, lines 1-65). Hagmann does not explicitly disclose using a local area network, a wide area network and Internet. However, Anwar discloses that a local area network, a wide area network and Internet, see (col. 4, lines 29-67 to col. 5, lines 47). Therefore, based on Hagmann in view of Anwar, it would have been obvious a person having ordinary skill in the art the time invention was made to combine a local area network, a wide area network and Internet with the system of Hagmann to search query interactions. The Internet is the largest internet in the world. It is a three level hierarchy composed of backbone networks, mid-level networks, and stub networks. These include commercial (.com or .co), university (.ac or .edu) and other research networks (.org, .net) and military (.mil) networks and span many different physical networks around the world with various protocols, chiefly the Internet Protocol in combination of LAN (local area network)

and WAN (wide area network). Thus, it would be beneficial to use Internet (the combination LAN and WAN) for search query through network.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Almgren et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,169,985) discloses the system for defining in a computer system a subset of entries in a database is described. The subset is defined by a query. The method includes displaying an interface having a number of criteria description locations. The criteria description locations being positioned in rows where each row has one or more columns. The method also includes creating a criteria description in the interface. The criteria description corresponds to criteria, where the criteria define a corresponding subset of the database. Importantly, the relative location of the criteria description in the user interface determines how the criteria contribute to the selectivity of the query.


Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-0081. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 308-6606 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

IMW
February 6, 2003


SHAHID AL ALAM
PATENT EXAMINER